

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 1, 2013. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Lou Sotelo, and Amy Viering. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Assistant to the City Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos, Director of Financial Services Cindy Von Holten, Building and Zoning Superintendent Amanda Schmidt, Acting Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Scout Troop 72.

Alderman Cox asked to remove Item "B", the video surveillance system for the Coliseum from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A) Approval of Bills and Payroll totaling \$642,705.77
- C) Refer to Plan Commission a Whiteside County petition from Sterling Christian School and Melissa and Keith Ellefsen to rezone property at 5505 Anne Street, Galt from County R-1 to County I-1
- D) Partial Payment #10 to Sjostrom and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$433,267.01 for City Hall remodeling project
- E) Final Pay Request for Public Works cold storage building addition in the amount of \$7,070.30 to C & C General Constructors

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Sotelo, and Viering. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee recapped the video surveillance system for the Coliseum which was not included in the original construction bid. The Police Department received and reviewed four quotes with Pentegra's low quote appearing to be the most inclusive.

Alderman Elston made a motion to waive the bidding process and approve Pentegra System to procure and oversee the installation of the video surveillance system for the Coliseum in the amount of \$58,575; seconded by Alderman Viering.

Alderman Cox thinks the surveillance system is overkill and gives the impression that Big Brother is watching. If employees have furlough days, we shouldn't spend this kind of money.

Chief Potthoff explained there are 28 cameras throughout the building, including cell areas and hallways. We have a large building that is open to the public. Manager

Shumard explained the Police Department has determined the camera positions. This can minimize liability in the booking and cell areas. There are also outdoor cameras to minimize vandalism.

Voting on video surveillance system: Ayes – Alderman Elston, Martin, Sotelo, and Viering. Nays – Alderman Cox. Motion carried.

Chief Potthoff introduced two new Police Officers, Adrienne Martinez and Ryan Potthoff, which were sworn in on January 4, 2013. They have completed the 12 week Basic Training at the Police Training Institute.

Mayor Lee recognized and congratulated Lt. Doug Fargher on becoming "Certified Eligible" in the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Certification Program.

Mayor Lee opened the public hearing for the 2013-14 budget at 6:47 pm. There were no comments. The hearing closed at 6:48 pm.

Alderman Viering made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into the fiduciary agreement between the City of Sterling and Blackhawk Area Task Force in the amount of \$1200 annually; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Sotelo, and Viering. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to refer the petition from Larry Ybarra, John Ybarra and Russell Koster for a time extension of the Special Use Permit for their proposed sport complex on West St. Mary's Road; seconded by Alderman Cox. The Special Use Permit is to expire in the next couple weeks and Ybarra has requested an extension to January 1, 2014.

Alderman Cox asked if the Council could extend this without sending it to the Plan Commission for review. Attorney Coplan stated the Council has that discretion. A public hearing is not necessary.

Alderman Martin stated there is nothing in the code book providing for this extension and is concerned about setting a precedent. Attorney Coplan explained the City has not given an extension before.

Mayor Lee asked Plan Commission Chair Stauter for comment on this matter. John Stauter believes the Plan Commission should review this because it would set a precedent.

Alderman Viering stated the Council has worked with the Plan Commission on zoning matters and values their recommendations.

Voting on referring petition to Plan Commission for review: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, and Viering. Nays – Aldermen Cox and Sotelo. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard reported several sewer lines have collapsed in the 1300 blocks of 14th Street, 15th Street, and 16th Street. City phone lines will be down at 2:00 am tomorrow morning. All emergency calls will go to Whiteside County until the phone lines are restored.

Alderman Cox asked if Manager Shumard had information on his request from the last meeting. Manager Shumard reported that he had nothing more.

Mayor Lee hopes the Ybarra petition can be handled in an expedient manner. Mayor Lee reminded citizens that with the warmer weather, more motorcycles will be on the road. Let's be aware. Watch for motorcycles.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk